

which has been out of print since 1936 was prompted by numerous requests. This is understandable as it represented one of the most significant contributions to the field of congenital heart disease.

Dr. Abbott's interest in congenital cardiac disease began in 1899 at the time she was appointed to the curatorship of the McGill Medical Museum. Because of her continuing interest, she became intimately familiar with the pathologic and clinical features of the various congenital cardiac defects. With this knowledge she was able to make many significant contributions to this field including a much needed system for classifying the various types of defects. Her *Atlas* stands as her most well known and perhaps most significant contribution.

The *Atlas* contains sections on the development and comparative anatomy of the heart, a system of clinical classification, detailed descriptions of the anatomic as well as some of the clinical features of 100 cases, and a table containing an analysis of the pathologic and clinical features of 1000 cases gathered from her experience as well as from the experience of others. Her many contributions, including the *Atlas*, provided an important stimulus leading to the many advances in the field of congenital heart disease.

With the subsequent development of physiological methods for study and surgical techniques for treatment of these congenital defects, current knowledge extends far beyond that contained in this monograph. However, it represented one of the most important contributions to the knowledge of these defects and continues to stand as a monument to Dr. Abbott who contributed so much and helped provide the stimulus for the rapid advances in the diagnostic, physiologic, and surgical aspects of congenital heart disease over the past two decades.

JAMES WATT, M.D.

SOAL, S. G. AND BATEMAN, F. *Modern Experiments in Telepathy*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1954. xv, 425 p. \$5.00.

It is difficult to evaluate this book which deals with matters foreign to scientific thinking. Most scientists are tempted to reject all evidence of paranormal phenomena, in spite of the many controlled experiments that have been reported. However, the publication of this book by the Yale University Press, with a sympathetic introduction by G. Evelyn Hutchinson, Sterling Professor of Zoology at Yale University, indicates that the study of telepathy has begun to acquire academic status.

Even Professor Hutchinson calls himself an "outsider . . . to . . . this sort of book." This feeling may arise, as it does for this reviewer, in part from the areas of interest of the authors. For example, on page 88 they state, "His work will be remembered as a courageous and brilliant attempt to answer the most vital question that confronts mankind: if a man die shall he live again?" This is an interesting question, but not the most vital one confronting mankind.

It may be that concern with the mystical is a necessary adjunct to the study of telepathy. This may be because the two subjects are related, or because it is necessary to explore all areas to determine which are susceptible to scientific investigation, or because perhaps the association of the two simply reveals the kind of person who is presently willing to study telepathy. It is certainly true that the subject is not now attractive to men of outstanding scientific competence and imagination.

One day it may be. When it is convincingly confirmed that extrasensory processes can perceive events in the present, past, or future, then the most able men will be needed to carry on further studies. Enough suggestive data have already been collected to make the subject worthy of serious investigation by some of our best scientists.

In this book the report of paranormal phenomena is fair and seemingly amply confirmed. For people already interested in telepathy and clairvoyance, the book will serve as a reference to contemporary ideas and literature on the subject. It may serve a more important purpose. It may encourage cross-fertilization of ideas between students of the paranormal and other disciplines such as psychology or psychiatry. For this reason it is appropriate for this book to be found in a medical library.

KEEVE BRODMAN, M.D.

MCAULEY, W. F. *The Concept of Schizophrenia*. New York, Philosophical Library [1954] 146 p. \$3.75.

In the preface to this book the author states: "The purpose of this book is to estimate present knowledge of Schizophrenia, to assess its historical background and evolution, and to indicate the importance of heredity and environment. . . . It is hoped that this book which is based on a comprehensive inquiry, both bibliographic and practical, will provide a concise account of Schizophrenia that may be of value to students preparing for examinations . . . [and those] . . . who contemplate specializing in psychiatry." The author also points out, quite justifiably, the important place that is occupied by this group of diseases in the field of medicine, the great burden that it places on society, its degree of seriousness and prevalence.

Following such remarks in the preface, one is particularly surprised by the fact that an attempt was made to present all this in such a short publication. The book consists of eight chapters which discuss the scientific recognition of Schizophrenia, the dynamic concept, the role of heredity and social and environmental conditions, neurophysiological and metabolic factors, the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. It is written clearly and in good style and should be, in most parts, easily intelligible to the readers to whom it is addressed. Insofar as the content is concerned, however, it falls short of subserving the purpose which was described in the preface. For a *comprehensive* treat-